

BURROW LIBRARY
Southwestern at Memphis

March 9, 1926.

Editor of the Inquirer,
Gonzales,
Gonzales County,
Texas.

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Dear Sir:

I am writing with regard to a matter in which a large number of cotton planters and merchants of Gonzales County were, during the years 1866, 67 and 68, interested in dollars and cents to a very considerable extent, and thinking it not unlikely that some of the children, grand children or other heirs of said cotton planters and merchants of sixty years ago, may still reside in Gonzales County, I am requesting that you publish this letter in your newspaper, with the hope that it may be seen by some of these children, grand children or other heirs, who may thus learn of a proposition, which now seems, will produce substantial benefits in the near future.

The proposition is that of the recovery of the sixty eight million dollars which the Federal Government exacted after the Civil War, as a tax on cotton. This tax, as will be remembered, was imposed and collected upon all cotton raised in the South.

The Committee on War Claims of the House of Representatives, 65th Congress, reported that said tax, was:- "ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL, AND VOID"-- "THAT NO GOOD REASON EXISTED TO PREVENT THE REPAYMENT OF THE SAME", and strongly urged the passage of a bill which provided for an appropriation to repay said tax in full, but without interest, to the persons from whom it had been collected, or if dead, to their heirs.

I am a son of Wm. M. Farrington and a grandson of Robertson Topp, who with Sam'l Tate, T. A. Nelson and Moses Wicks, all now dead, were employed by some thousands of planters and merchants of the South, to take steps to recover said cotton taxes. Since their deaths, I have, by proper appointment, succeeded them in the prosecution of these claims. I have gathered from various sources, many of the original contracts of employment, orders on factors, receipts, permits to remove cotton, bale marks, weights, letters, etc, pertaining to this tax.

I have made a partial list of the names of the planters and merchants of Gonzales County who are shown by said records, to have paid the larger amounts of cotton taxes. It appears that cotton taxes on about 30,000 bales were paid in Gonzales County, which, at an average of thirteen dollars per bale, would total quite a tidy sum.

While it is generally believed by lawyers and students of government that these taxes will be repaid at not a distant date,

a date not for distant

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including those hereafter named

more the 50.000

Gonzales County, Texas.

2 *it should be given the attention that matters of*
importance *deserve to receive* *quantity* *would secure*
 the matter is of such magnitude that it is but the part of wisdom
 and good business, that this matter should be handled just as
 other big matters are handled. I am therefore calling upon you,
 as I am also calling upon other editors throughout the South, to
 help us get into communication with the interested heirs in their
 respective Counties, that we may form an organization to exert
 competent and united effort.

Thanking you in advance for this favor, and for any other
 assistance which you may see fit to render the cause, I am,

Yours very truly,

P. S. Should you publish this letter, I will thank you to mail me
 one or two copies of the issue containing same.

The following are the Gonzales County planters and merchants,
 referred to

E. W. Cunningham	Belding & Co
J. C. Johns	Edward Krochman
S. Huben or Heaber	Geo S. Coleman
James Hi Saw	T. S. Walker
Wm. H. H. Wade	J. A. Shunburn or Shimbum
Lewis A. L. Lan kin	Wm. D. W. Peck
L. A. L. Lan kin Jr.	Peck & Evans
E. M. or E. U. Walker	F. L. or F. S. Lloyd
S. J. Denman	A. D. or A. L. Walker
A. E. Cloud	A. C. or A. P. or A. V. Irvin
M. I. or M. J. Sedbery	Eli Stephen
F. A. Kelman	A. H. Jones
J. J. Hedges or Hodges	Jacob Carroll
Ths. R. Hodges	J. L. Johnson
Thos. D. Wilson & Co	John Steen
Wm. P. Matthews	A. Kelso
Brooks & Knox	J. H. Stevens
Peck & Evans	Wm. Kacay or Kacey
Brandt & Badger	S. N. or S. A. Hall
Jno R. Smith	E. M. Cleon
F. F. Wood	E. P. Park
N. Chevalier	Frank C. Kelly
Qualls & Evans	M. B. Hampton
Jas. A. or Jos. G. Hamon	Robt A. Atteinoon
J. V. or J. B. Law	Robt & J. L. Nations
Lewis & Dilworth	Saml C. Price
John Jobe	A. Davidson
P. Levyson & Co.	H. A. Groves
Wm. F. Laird & Co.	
S. Frank & Co.	
	H. F. Steagall
	T. M. or J. M. Nations

L. G. or C. G. Hubbard
I. G. or S. G. Narwood
J. L. Powell
H. G. Livingston
M. L. Nelson
Josiah Evans
Henry Butler
A. House
L. Evans
Mins Halleburton
Meldrain Halleburton
Elim Halliburton
John Halliburton
J. A. Kindred
John A. Bailey
Kindred & Co.
A. Kindred
J. L. Mooney
Thos I. or Thos J. White
R. H. Carson
J. F. Nixon & Co.
T. J. or T. S. Morrison
N. W. Grim
P. C. McCoy
C. M. Barry or Burris
I. W. Burris
W. C. Barnes
I. I. or J. J. Copal
E. F. Morris
I. or J. McCoy
~~G. M. Barry or Burris~~
~~I. W. Burris~~
M. G. Dikes
John C. Thompson
J. T. Price
I. W. or J. W. Watson
O. M. Childers
Robert Hall
A. P. Townes
W. D. Smith
W. T. V. Sorrell
W. F. M. Holmes
R. J. Floyd
J. B. Brevant or Brevank
C. C. Littlefield
R. C. or R. L. White
Bery Merchant
R. L. or R. T. Miller
John Stewart
A. McVea
Geo W. L. Fly

William Green

T. C. or S. C. Ellis
P. C. Beaty
A. G. Green
T. D. King
A. B. or P. B. Littlefield
M. P. King
M. H. Beaty
(G. H. McCracken
(per Bradham, Agent
W. J. Nash
I. P. or L. P. Renfro
Wm. L. Foster
Robt Brodus
J. W. Webb
G. C. Webb
T. N. or T. V. Waul
C. H. Simmons
Geo. W. Littlefield
S. Smith
A. S. Miller
J. S. or F. Foster
W. B. Walker
(S. B. Conly, Administrator of
(W. Munnin
H. W. Mural
James W. Stern
Thos J. White
L. B. Brattan or Brattaw
Everett Lewis
Henry Trammell
C. Britton
C. J. Gilmore
L. E. Kelly or Kelley
J. M. Dismukes
L. McKellar
I. R. or J. R. McNeils
H. G. Zumwalt
A. R. Brock
R. G. or R. J. Brothers
E. Minter
J. L. Lockridge
K. K. Lockridge
J. P. Holcomb
P. Thompson
Tomlinson & Miller
Zumwalt & Lockey
A. J. Densen or Derison
James Taylor
W. B. Stewart
J. D. Fly
T. J. Catching

D. W. Fly

Gonzales County, Texas.

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J. R. Bass
Henry Carraway Sr.
Andrew Carraway
Sol J. Thomas
W. M. Littlefield

T. Jeff Wilson
Geo Carraway
S. A. Hubbard
R. Littlefield
I. or J. W. Cunningham

(Note -- Some of the above signatures are difficult to read--
hence the alternative names.)